



San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
017-067: NCVSC Awards 2017

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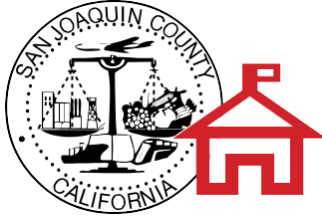
Manteca Unified Educator Named STEM Teacher of the Year Stagg High School student also recognized by North Central Valley STEM Center

The North Central Valley STEM Center (NCVSC) named Sierra High School's Stephan Unterholzner STEM Teacher of the Year, recognizing the teacher as an innovative educator who engages students in the study of STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The NCVSC also named a student and STEM advocate of the year.

"Stephan does not just teach chemistry, computer science, or robotics, he inspires students to think critically and explore science as he brings it to life," Sierra High Principal Steve Clark says in his letter nominating Unterholzner. Clark writes that the teacher strives to reach students of all levels, routinely spending his lunchtimes helping students. He also mentors new teachers. "(Unterholzner) truly exemplifies and embodies what it takes to be an excellent teacher and inspires those around him," Clark writes.

The North Central Valley STEM Center is a regional collaborative partnership of area leaders in education, industry, and business. The NCVSC also recognized Stagg High School senior Samuel Cornelison as the STEM Student of the Year. Among a long list of accomplishments and accolades at school, Cornelison took part in the Wakesman Student Scholars Program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. While there, he helped discover a new gene in duckweed which may expedite use of the plant as a biofuel.

Each will receive a cash award and custom-made plaque. Awards are sponsored by the NCVSC, Brocchini Farms, Kristine Brocchini, and the Cardenas family. The NCVSC also named Dr. Joanna Albala, education outreach manager of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as the STEM Advocate of the Year. She has provided robust field-trip experiences for students at the lab as well as managed the Science on Saturday, Science on Screen, and Teacher Research Academies. This is the second year NCVSC issued awards. It held its awards dinner on May 12 at the residence of Kris Brocchini in Ripon. Attendees were treated to a presentation by the STEM Sisters, a group of fourth- and fifth-graders from the John C. McCandless STEM Charter School in the Lincoln Unified School District.



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2017 North Central Valley STEM Center Awards Winners

STEM Teacher of the Year:

Stephan Unterholzner, Sierra High School, Manteca Unified School District

STEM Student of the Year:

Samuel Cornelison, Stagg High School, Stockton Unified School District

STEM Advocate of the Year:

Dr. Joanna Albala, educational outreach manager at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

About the North Central Valley Stem Center:

The North Central Valley STEM Center is a regional network of the California STEM Learning Network with a shared mission to help prepare the region's students to become the nation's most STEM-capable graduates by providing STEM education and access for all. It is coordinated through the San Joaquin County Office of Education as a regional collaborative partnership of the California Math and Science Partnership, Cohort 10 Secondary Integration of Modeling in Math and Science (SIMMS) Project. For more information, visit www.sjcoescience.org/north-central-valley-stem-center.html.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.